

Governor E.M. Pease Home
Austin, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-330

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

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GOVERNOR E. M. PEASE HOME
Austin, Travis County, Texas.

Owner: R. Niles Graham, Austin, Texas.

Date of Erection: 1850

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Abner Hugh Cook

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Two and attic.

Materials of Construction: Brick, pine, oak and cypress.

Other Existing Records: None

Additional Data:

The Governor E.M. Pease Home is one of the best examples of "Greek Revival" architecture in the city of Austin, Texas. The house is two story, contains eight rooms and a large stair hall. It is constructed of brick, with cypress, pine and oak woodwork. The front portico columns, which are Greek Ionic, extend from the portico floor to the second floor ceiling. Over the main entrance door is a small balcony, the railing on which is quite interesting.

Situated in which is now called "Enfield" and well back on a bluff overlooking the City of Austin which lies to the East, the house was built by a Mr. Shaw, whose wife died shortly after its completion. Mr. Shaw then returned to Galveston, his former home, but returned later and prevailed on Governor Pease to take the house off of his hands. This the Governor did, giving it the name of "Enfield" after his original home in Connecticut.

Credit is to be given Mr. Samuel Gideon of the University of Texas for his information, which was taken from his booklet "Historic and Picturesque Austin." In the foreword to this very interesting pamphlet the following two paragraphs are found:

"This book is dedicated to Mr. Abner Hugh Cook, the contractor who built many of the homes herein illustrated, particularly those of

the 'Greek Revival' or 'Neo Classic' period during the 50's. Mr. Cook came to Austin in 1841 from the Carolinas and perhaps it was there he was inspired by the beautiful 'colonial' types. As a man, nothing but good is known of him. He died poor, having been financially ruined by going security for his so-called friends."

"Though Mr. Cook was not an Architect, his houses show dignity and refinement of detail not surpassed by Modern buildings. It is a great pity that some of his houses are falling into decay and others have been demolished, but may the best of those left standing be tenderly cared for, since they will illustrate the cultural background of the city's early inhabitants."

Author: Homer H. Lansberry
Homer H. Lansberry

APPROVED: Bartlett Cocke
Bartlett Cocke, Dist. Officer

Date: February 12, 1937.

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